

134.14
ms

THE BAPTIST Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

MEMBER OF THE
SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOC
601 COMMERCE ST STE 401
NASHVILLE TN 37203-3620
APR 19 2010

ANCE 1877
8, 2010
VOL. 134
No. 14

Silsby spends Easter in Haiti prison

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (BP) — The last remaining Baptist volunteer still in a Haiti prison spent Easter Sunday in jail but remains confident she will be released. Laura Silsby, in prison for more than nine weeks after she and nine others were arrested in late January on charges of child kidnapping, told NBC News her faith has sustained her. The nine other Americans have been released and are back in the United States. Silsby was considered the group leader.

Silsby faces a new charge — "organizing irregular travel" — that the other nine Baptists did not face. It is not known how much longer she will be in jail.

Med teams highlighted at DR meeting

By Tony Martin
Associate Editor

First in a two-part series.

Each year, members of the Disaster Relief (DR) State Task Force — a group of volunteers given the responsibility of responding to disasters in Mississippi, other states, and around the world — come together for a training update event at Central Hills Retreat near Kosciusko. The DR ministry is part of the Men's Ministry Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, and the update was held March 26-27. Currently, Southern Baptist Disaster Relief is the third largest disaster relief organization in the United States behind the American Red Cross and the Salvation Army.

One hundred twenty-eight volunteers participated in the training event, including many first-timers. In addition to the general sessions, specific ministry areas covering everything from feeding to child care, ham radio operations to chaplaincy, and medical to chainsaws, were addressed. Participants could choose the areas that appealed to them, and DR veterans were able to receive cross-training in other areas.

One highlight of this particular training event involved reports of the work of the medical teams who have participated in the relief efforts in Haiti in the aftermath of the devastating earthquake in the island nation. Three Mississippi Baptist medical teams have made trips to Haiti. The first team, which was in country Jan. 31-Feb. 8, consisted of Dan Edney, Danny Ellis, Michael Jones, Hester Pitts, Hester Davis-Sullivan, David Baldwin, Steve Griffin, Carl Myers, Kay Cassibry, and Lana Waggoner. The second and third teams, which were in Haiti Mar. 14-22, consisted of Dan Edney,



MINISTERING THROUGH MEDICINE — Pat Thorn (center, wearing gloves) and Mike Thorn (yellow cap with back to camera), both of Fulton, work with Haitian nationals at one of two clinics set up by Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief medical teams in Haiti during a trip Mar. 13-22. (Special to The Baptist Record)

David Baldwin, Jackie Brewer, Trey Brookshire, Daniel Edney, Kathy Ellis, Randy Graves, Michael Jones, Tom Kilpatrick, Chris Park, Hester Pitts, Joe Ross, Barri Shirley, Mike Thorn, and Pat Thorn. Each team was made up of medical professionals, pharmacists, and non-professional medical volunteers.

The first Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief medical response was to Banda Aceh, Indonesia, following the tragic tsunami in 2004. Dan Edney joined a feeding team and worked with doctors from other states to respond to medical needs. Kay Cassibry, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union, led a full medical team to Indonesia as a part of the tsunami response as well.

Mississippi Baptist DR medical teams also worked in the Katrina response and in Lebanon following the Israeli-Lebanese conflict. Edney practices general internal medicine in Vicksburg. "I've been very blessed to put together and try to lead the medical component of disaster response of Mississippi Baptists," he said. "God has brought to fruition some of the ideas that were placed in the heart and mind of Don Gann [consultant in the Men's Ministry Department] and myself that grew out of the work done in Indonesia, just talking and seeing how God brought the key people and resources together."

Of the three teams that have been to Haiti, the first team had 10 participants, and the second team had 15 in two squads with two clinics operating. The first team worked primarily in Port-au-Prince, seeing about 1,000 patients in five days, with approximately 10,000 prescriptions written. The second team with its two squads was able to see just a little over 2,000 patients and distributed about 20,000 prescriptions.

"We had a lot of people working ahead of time that didn't have the blessing of going to Haiti," Edney said. "We had people who had volunteered for both trips that prepacked our medicines. You can imagine if our pharmacist would have had to fill each prescription on site, so it's the people at home who took on the tedious task of counting pills that enabled us to treat as many patients as we did."

Nominees sought for MBC posts

The 2010 Committee on Nominations approved by the messengers of the 174th Mississippi Baptist Convention will soon begin reviewing the trustee/board member positions on the boards and commissions of the Mississippi Baptist Convention (MBC) to serve in 2011.

According to Allen Simpson, committee chair and pastor of First Church in Amory, there will be a limited number of vacancies to be filled on the following boards and commissions:

- Baptist Children's Village
- Baptist Health Systems, Inc. (Jackson)
- Baptist Memorial Health Care System, Inc. (Memphis)
- Board of Ministerial Education
- Education Commission
- Historical Commission
- Blue Mountain College
- Mississippi College

- William Carey University
- Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission, Inc.
- Mississippi Baptist Convention Board
- Mississippi Baptist Foundation

The Committee on Nominations will work with the heads of the institutions and agencies to bring a list of nominees to be approved by the messengers of the 175th annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention on October 26-27.

Nomination forms are available from Executive Administration — Brenda Box, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. E-Mail: bbox@mbc.org. Telephone (601) 292-3201 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 201.

Completed forms should be mailed to the Committee on Nominations, Executive Administration at the above address to be received no later than May 1.

NAMB holds commissioning in Georgia

WOODSTOCK, Ga. (BP) — Before 3,000 people at First Church in Woodstock, Ga. — one of the largest crowds to ever witness a North American Mission Board (NAMB) missionary commissioning service — NAMB introduced 79 new missionaries and 16 new chaplains on March 28.

The new missionaries and chaplains represented 24 states, two Canadian provinces, and 23 state Baptist conventions. South Carolina alone accounted for 11 missionaries commissioned during the two-hour service.

One newly commissioned Army chaplain, Capt. Jared Vineyard, will be deployed to Afghanistan later this summer. He will leave behind his expectant wife Amanda, son Jacob, and daughter Kate at Fort Campbell, Ky.

Vineyard will serve as a chaplain in the Band of Brothers battalion of the 101st Airborne Division, also known as the Screaming Eagles. As one of seven battalion chaplains, the 30-year-old Vineyard will be pastor to 900 soldiers, part of a 4,000-soldier brigade deploying to Afghanistan in late August.

"The Army says these are your soldiers, and you become a pastor to these 900 men, most of whom are lost," Vineyard said. "We call it a ministry of presence. When they go out in the field to train, I go out in the field with them."

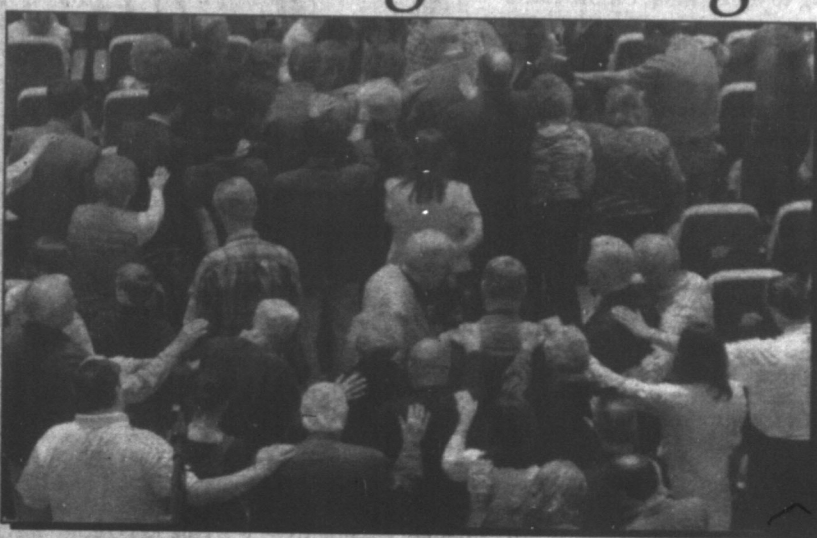
The commissioning service was especially sweet for Charlie and Cindy Minney, who called it "phenomenal" to be commissioned at the same Atlanta-area church where he served 11 years prior to his new assignment as an associational missionary in the Coalfields Association in Logan, W.Va.

"To be here back at home with the First Baptist Woodstock family, and to have them send us off like this, I can't explain it in words," Minney said. In his new post, Minney will work with church planters to start new churches, with existing churches to accomplish specific goals, and with the associational team to develop a mission strategy for the Coalfields region.

Steve and Nellene Carter of Lincolnton, N.C., were commissioned as Missionary Service Corps (MSC) missionaries for Vermont and New Hampshire. To be based in Barre, Vt., the Carters will leave their North Carolina home to spend six months of the year in Vermont to encourage pastors and to serve as "church strengtheners" to the 35 congregations in the Green Mountain Association serving Vermont and two churches in New Hampshire.

The Carters are both retired from earlier careers — Nellene as a banker and Steve as a manager for a nuclear plant for 27 years. "We have been to Vermont on short-term mission trips for the last six summers," Carter said. "During those summers, we developed a heart for Vermont because it's the least evangelized state in the nation."

Bill and Monaca Brisbin and Rick and Sharon Bradley, all of South Lebanon, Ohio, were all commissioned as Mission Service Corps missionaries who work with ministries at



PRAYERS FOR MISSIONARIES — Some 3,000 people attending the North American Mission Board commissioning service at First Church in Woodstock, Ga., on March 28. They were asked to place their hands on and pray for the 95 new missionaries and chaplains. (BP photo)

First Church, South Lebanon. The Brisbins, for instance, have led the Bread Basket food ministry for the last 18 months, providing 120 families each week with bread products and emergency food boxes.

Richard Harris, interim president of NAMB in Alpharetta, Ga., challenged the new missionaries and chaplains to be driven by one simple thing: "the call of Almighty God on your life. Never leave it, never lose it, never doubt it. You will need that during the hard days to encourage you and keep you going."

Harris told the missionaries that God will hold them "accountable for two things — equipping every church member to be a reproducing follower of Christ and sharing the Good News with every person in your Jerusalem and in your sphere of influence."

"Some SBC churches have forgotten these two things, when you consider that 25% of churches baptized nobody last year. More than 61% of our churches baptized five or less; 79% baptized 10 or less; and only 251 of our bigger churches baptized 100 or more. I'm proud to say that First Baptist Woodstock was one of those," Harris said.

Harris dismissed the notion that most Baptists don't have the gift of evangelism.

"There's no such thing as the gift of evangelism in the Bible," he said. "Show me where it talks about the gift of evangelism. Ephesians talks about the office of evangelist. But every believer — missionary, chaplain, pastor, church member and Sunday School member — is responsible for bringing people to faith in Christ. If you're not fishing, you're not following."

Harris said three out of every four people — whether in rural areas or urban areas, where 83% of North Americans live — need Christ.

Also participating were J. Robert White, executive director of the Georgia Baptist Convention, and Kay Miller, national president of Woman's Missionary Union auxiliary of the Southern Baptist Convention.

In all, more than 5,300 missionaries serve with NAMB, most of them through partnerships with state Baptist conventions. In addition to the missionaries, NAMB is the endorsing entity for more than 3,400 Southern Baptist chaplains in military, hospital, professional, corporate, public safety, and institutional settings.

Looking back

10 years ago

Hundreds of BSU students from across the state travel to Maryland and Delaware where Mississippi Baptists enjoy a partnership with the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware, to participate in mission projects involving witnessing, music, inner city ministry, and church and camp renovations.

20 years ago

The staff of the Interfaith Witness Department of the Home Mission Board names Mississippi pastor Cary F. Worthington as the 1990 Interfaith Associate of the Year. Worthington is pastor of Pleasant Hill Church, Clarke County.

50 years ago

Seventeen thousand people attend the first nationwide Southern Baptist Sunday School Convention in Fort Worth, Tex., March 29 – 31.

Easter confusion

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — While most Americans continue to view Easter as a religious celebration, many of them are unclear on the underlying reason for the occasion. The Barna Group found in a recent study. The study, based on telephone interviews with roughly 1,000 adults in February, found that 67% of the respondents mentioned some type of theistic religious element in Easter, including the fact that it's a Christian holiday or it's a special time for church attendance. Only 42% of those surveyed said the meaning of Easter was the resurrection of Jesus or that it signifies Christ's death and return to life, Barna said. Two percent said they would describe Easter as the most important holiday of their faith. "Even within the religious definitions offered by Americans there is a certain degree of confusion: two percent of Americans said that Easter is about the 'birth of Christ'; another two percent indicated it was about the 'rebirth of Jesus'; and one percent said it is a celebration of 'the second coming of Jesus,'" Barna said. "Not included in the theistic category was another three percent who described Easter as a celebration of spring or a pagan holiday." Evangelicals and those who attend large churches were among the most likely to express some type of theistic religious connection with Easter, Barna said. The youngest adult generation, those ages 18-25, were the least likely age segment to say Easter is a religious holiday, which Barna said reflects an increasingly secular mindset in young adults. Those who were more politically conservative were more likely than those who were politically liberal to describe Easter as a celebration of the resurrection, the study found. For more information, visit barna.org.



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

PUBLISHED SINCE 1877

APRIL 8, 2010

VOL. 134

NO. 14



YOU CAN RESPOND
RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.



EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

EDITOR
William H. Perkins Jr.
wperkins@mbcb.org

ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Tony Martin
tmartin@mbcb.org

LAYOUT/DESIGN
Benjamin Ivey
bivey@mbcb.org

Emily Jones
ejones@mbcb.org

CIRCULATION MANAGER
Brenda Quattlebaum
bquattlebaum@mbcb.org

EDITOR EMERITUS
Don McGregor

Baptist Record Advisory Committee:
Archie Herrin, Columbia
Chris Webb, Jackson
Sharon Neff, Cleveland
John Price, Charleston
Dwayne Parker, Flora
Paul Sims, Pontotoc

Postmaster:
Send changes of address to: The
BAPTIST RECORD, P.O. Box 530,
Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

Send news, communication, and
address changes to: The Editor,
BAPTIST RECORD, P.O. Box 530,
Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

Tel: (601) 968-3800
Fax: (601) 292-3330
E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org

VOLUME 134 • NUMBER 14
(ISSN-0005-5778)

Published weekly except weeks of July 4 and Christmas by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, 515 Mississippi Street, Jackson, MS 39201. Subscription \$10.35 per year payable in advance. Economy plans available for cooperating Mississippi churches. Periodicals postage paid at Jackson, MS. Member, Association of State Baptist Papers. Deadlines: News items — one calendar week prior to requested publication date. Advertising — two calendar weeks prior to requested publication date. All submissions are subject to editing.

Just the facts, please

It's probably the most important report you haven't read. The grandly-named Great Commission Resurgence Task Force has been at work now for several months under the chairmanship of Ronnie Floyd, pastor of First Church in Springdale, Ark. Their task: nothing less than the overhaul of how the Southern Baptist Convention is organized and how Southern Baptists in the future will fund the myriad of ministries, missionaries, agencies, and institutions that comprise the largest Protestant denomination in the world.

The full and final report of the task force is due May 3. It will be presented to messengers who attend the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Orlando, Fla., in June. Chairman Floyd delivered an interim report to the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention during its regularly-scheduled meeting in Nashville in February. That interim report can be read in its entirety at www.pray4gcr.com.

"We realize our number one need is to return to God in deep repentance and experience a fresh wave of His Spirit upon our lives, ministries and work of our denomination," Floyd told Executive Committee members. "We need a fresh and compelling vision that will only come when we are right with Him."

That appears to be the overarching goal of this well-meaning committee, but their task in coming up with concrete actions to implement that vision will be a tough one. We should be in prayer for the members of the committee as they hammer out the final recommendations



IN SESSION — Ronnie Floyd (at podium), pastor of First Church in Springdale, Ark., leads a January meeting of the Great Commission Resurgence Task Force in San Antonio, Texas. (BP photo courtesy of The Christian Index)

before the May 3 release. We should also be in prayer for the Orlando messengers who will be considering whether to adopt the report.

Most of all we should be in prayer that whatever we do, God will be glorified and even more people will come to know Jesus as their Lord and Savior because our hearts and intentions were found to be pure.

We also need to keep in mind that the interim report currently circulating is just that — an interim report. Floyd has said the document is a work in progress and that the final report may look quite different. Let's not jump the gun before we see that final report. A lost world will be watching, as always, to see whether we approach this momentous time as Christians, or something less. We can't afford to be seen as something less and still expect to be an effective witness for Christ.

Even without the final report being known, folks are lining up and beginning to choose sides for what they perceive to be the looming showdown. Southern Baptists wouldn't be Southern Baptists if there weren't some fussing and loud disagreement about something or the other. That's okay as long as we are Christ-like about it. Fervent discussion can make the final report better.

Let's take the interim report, study it carefully and without bias, and then pray for the Lord's guidance. Perhaps the final report will generate controversy and will be assailed. Perhaps it will deserve to be treated thusly. We should wait until we see it, though.

Where the Great Commission Resurgence Task Force is concerned, let's hold off on judgments until all the facts come in. The final report will be out in a few short weeks.

Keep your powder dry until then.

He was known as The Great Impostor and inspired a 1960 film by the same name. Ferdinand Waldo Demara impersonated everyone from physicians to monks and thus achieved notoriety. His final gig: serving as a Baptist minister.

For Christians, Demara's story is a warning to be on guard against those who disguise themselves as "servants of righteousness" (2 Corinthians 11:15), but how can we know a religious impostor when we see one? The Apostle Paul gives us three clear markers in 2 Corinthians 11:4. False teachers proclaim "another Jesus...a different spirit...a different gospel."

To illustrate, let's look briefly at three large or influential religious systems: Islam, Mormonism, and the Jehovah's Witnesses — all of which are growing worldwide and teach unbiblical doctrines concerning Jesus, the Holy Spirit and the Gospel.

Islam

Muslims say Jesus was one of God's greatest prophets but inferior to Muhammad, who brought Allah's final revelation to man (the Koran). Muslims believe Jesus is the Messiah, was born of a virgin, lived a sinless life and is coming back one day — but only to establish Islam throughout the earth.

Islam denies the deity and personhood of the Holy Spirit,

GUEST OPINION:



Recognize the great impostors

By Rob Phillips
Nashville

whom the Koran describes as "the angel which brought revelation," according to Mualana Muhammad Ali in The Holy Koran with English Translation and Commentary.

Islam teaches that Christ was neither crucified for our sins nor resurrected; therefore salvation cannot possibly be attained through faith in Christ. In fact, sin is not man's problem. Sin is thought of in terms of rejecting right guidance. It can be forgiven through repentance. No atonement is necessary.

Mormonism

Jesus preexisted in heaven as a spirit child of Heavenly Father (Ehohim) and one of his goddess wives (as did Lucifer and all pre-existent human beings). He then took on a human body through sexual relations between Heavenly Father and Mary. Jesus is one of three gods in the Mormon godhead, although Mormonism recognizes the Trinity only as one in "purpose," arguing

instead for a multitude of gods.

Mormon.org says the Holy Spirit "witnesses, or testifies of the Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ and reveals and teaches truth." Sounds orthodox, but historically Mormon leaders have offered more disturbing views of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus' atonement secured "salvation" (meaning resurrection) for nearly all people, but "men will be punished for their own sins" (Article of Faith #2 by Joseph Smith). People may earn "eternal life" (godhood) by "obedience to the laws and ordinances of the gospel," meaning works (Article of Faith #3 by Joseph Smith).

Godhood is the goal of Mormonism. According to fifth LDS President Lorenzo Snow, "As man is, God once was; as God is, man may become."

The Watchtower

Jesus was the first and direct creation of Jehovah God. Jesus then created all "other" things (Colossians 1:16 New World Translation). Jehovah's

Witnesses deny the Trinity, speaking of Jesus as "a god" or "mighty god" but not divine. Jesus returned invisibly in 1914 and is working today to overthrow Satan's kingdom.

The "holy spirit" (always lower case) is the invisible active force of God that moves His servants to do His will. They deny the personhood and deity of the Holy Spirit, proclaiming such beliefs to be inspired by Satan.

Salvation in the Watchtower is a combination of faith and works, but there is no eternal security and virtually no hope of today's Witnesses ever entering heaven, which is reserved for the 144,000 in the "anointed class."

For Christians who encounter an array of false teachings today, our best defense is the truth of God's Word. The writer of Hebrews put it best: "For the word of God is living and effective and sharper than any two-edged sword, penetrating as far as to divide soul, spirit, joints, and marrow; it is a judge of the ideas and thoughts of the heart. No creature is hidden from Him, but all things are naked and exposed to the eyes of Him to whom we must give an account" (4:12-13).

Phillips is director of communications for LifeWay Christian Resources in Nashville. His commentary appears courtesy of Baptist Press.

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

April 8, 2010

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

Preschool & Children's Ministers' Retreat



GARAYWA

CAMP & CONFERENCE CENTER

RETREAT • RELAX • RETOOL

APRIL 26-27, 2010

PATTERSON PLACE • CLINTON, MS

For more information contact the Discipleship and Family Ministry, 601-292-3287 or dhicks@mbcb.org

Unhindered ... to the Ends of the Earth

ASSOCIATIONAL
MISSIONS
LEADERSHIP TRAINING

April 30-May 1, 2010

ANNUAL MISSIONS CELEBRATION

April 30, 2010

For additional information, please call MS WMU at 800-748-1651, ext. 317; 601-292-3317; or e-mail Lmiller@mbcb.org; or http://www.mbcb.org/events_results.aspx?ID=16

MAY 7-8, 2010

Colonial Heights BC, Ridgeland



THROUGH MEDIA

More info: MBCB Communication Services,
601-292-3378 or jchen@mbcb.org

Spirit & Truth

A Call to Holiness and Integrity

LONGVIEW HEIGHTS BC OLIVE BRANCH

4501 Goodman Road

APRIL 30 - MAY 1

Spirit & Truth is a weekend conference built on the foundational roles that prayer, Bible interpretation, and Spirit-filled living play in bringing personal transformation. Jesus reminds us in John 4:23 that ... "true worshippers will worship the Father in Spirit and in Truth."

You're invited to explore these ideas and renew your relationship with Christ on April 30 & May 1, 2010, at Longview Heights Baptist Church in Olive Branch.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS INCLUDE ...



Greg Heisler, Assoc. Chair of Preaching
Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary

Jim Shaddix, Senior Pastor

Riverside Baptist Church, Denver Colorado



Joel Engle, Senior Pastor
The Exchange Church, Keller, Texas



FRIDAY SCHEDULE

7:00 p.m. 7-8:30 p.m.
Prayer Life
for Spiritual Leaders

Claude King
Discipleship Specialist
LifeWay
Christian Resources

8:00 p.m. Prayer Time
8:30 p.m. Dismiss



Mississippi Baptist Convention Board
Mission Strategy, David Michel
Associate Executive-Director
P. O. Box 530
Jackson, Mississippi 39205
601.292.3231
800.748.1651, ext. 231
E-mail: dmichel@mbcb.org
or lmiller@mbcb.org

SATURDAY SCHEDULE

9 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
Opening Words
Music
Session 1 - Greg Heisler
Session 2 - Jim Shaddix
Break
Music
Session 3 - Jim Shaddix
Snack Lunch
Intro
Music
Session 4 - Joel Engle
Session 5 - Joel Engle
Break
Session 6 - Greg Heisler
Dismiss

3:30-5:00 Post Conference

Please call X-tended Missions Network
662.429.5033 for meal count and conference information
COME EVEN IF YOU DON'T CALL!

BIBLIOCIPHER

By Charles Marx, 1932 - 2004
© 2005

MROE DRHZZ UKM ECK
CKM CP MRO DEBHQ-
QKOD: EOH, MRO
MSAO JCAOMR, MRHM
TRCDCOLW YSZZOMR
ECK TSZZ MRSBY
MRHM RO NCOMR QCN
DOWLSJO.

XCRB DSBMOOB: MTC

Clue: T = W

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Amos Nine: Two

FORGETFULNESS AND IRRITABILITY

The other day I was listening to a newscast on the radio and they were telling about the Pentagon searching for new ways to treat brain injuries on the battlefield. I know it was a quick 20-30 second blurb of a news item, but toward the end they said that they needed to find ways to treat the brain injuries on the battlefield because if they were not diagnosed and treated immediately, it could possibly show up later in their lives in the form of forgetfulness and irritability.

Then the news report went on to something else, but my mind stopped back there as I thought about forgetfulness and irritability. If those are the lingering symptoms of brain injury, I know a number of us who must be suffering from it. Now, my recurring thoughts have nothing to do with the battlefield or the seriousness of our troops who are put in harms way and could eventually have physically debilitating injuries or brain impairment as a result. I am so thankful for the advancements in medicine that are carried to the front lines of our troops to provide help, health, and interventional medicine that has truly made a difference in thousands of men and women who have survived because the medics and the support were available.

What I thought about was how many of us suffer from the expressions that are assigned to brain injury — forgetfulness and irritability. All of us have from time to time some lapses in our memory and forget to take care of responsibilities. Men may forget more than women and old folks may forget more than young ones, but we all participate. Sometimes when I cannot remember a date, a name, or some other valuable piece of information that I need to bring forth, I think of the story that Howard H. Baker, Jr.



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

used to tell about himself. This senator from Tennessee was at a fundraising event, and he and his wife were standing there greeting people as they came through. A man came up who was obviously a large contributor to the senator's campaign. They stood there and visited for a good while as Senator Baker's wife was waiting to be introduced.

Senator Baker, who was constantly forgetting people's names, apparently was trying to cover up the awkwardness of introducing someone that he did not know to his wife. Graciously she helped him get out of it but after the man left Mrs. Baker turned to the senator and said, "I know that was a very important man, but apparently you could not remember his name so that you could introduce him to me." He replied, "Oh no, that was not the case. I knew who he was, but I could not remember your name." When forgetfulness

moves to that place in your life, you may be dealing with a serious brain injury or, if not, you soon will be.

Another feature that people may exhibit after a serious brain injury is irritability. There again I may be wrong but I think that I know a lot of folks who have never had a serious brain injury who exhibit irritability. There have been days that I have attended the school of hard knocks, but I never recall having a serious brain injury. At the same time, I realize that there are times when I have been irritable. It is interesting about irritability. Rarely when you have it do you want to hide it. It just seems like people that are irritable want everybody to know that is their frame of mind. Wouldn't it be wonderful if you could move into a zone of life to be gracious, kind, and tenderhearted with the same speed and energy with which you become irritable?

Now while the Pentagon is searching for answers to help diagnose and deal with head traumas, what I am talking about that produces forgetfulness and irritability may be more of a heart problem. As believers, God wants our hearts to be right so that we will not forget to do the things that He wants us to do. He wants us to be sensitive and not overlook the guiding of the Spirit of God in our lives to do and act according to His will and according to His Word. Beyond that it is only by the grace of God, the marvelous caring grace of Jesus by which we are delivered from our day-to-day irritability.

The Apostle Paul tells us in Galatians 5, that we are people through whom God produces marvelous fruit — things like love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, and meekness, which is pretty amazing stuff. God takes our lives and delivers us from being irritable, headstrong, "me" centered, and irritated by everybody else's deficiencies, into useful Kingdom people who literally are reshaped by God and can help reshape our world. The question is not so much have you had a brain injury, as it is have you allowed God to reshape and mold your heart?

The author can be contacted at jfutral@mbcb.org.

COLLEGE AND SEMINARY NEWS

1. William Carey University will celebrate homecoming Apr. 16 and 17. Alumni and guests can register from 11:30 a.m. until noon and from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. in the Student Conference Center Apr. 16 and from 10 - 11 a.m. Saturday. Pre-registration can be done online at www.wmcarey.edu/alumni. For more information, visit the website or call (601) 318-6561.
2. New Orleans Seminary will host an alumni luncheon during the Southern Baptist Convention in Orlando, Fla., June 16, in the Valencia Ballroom of the Orange County Convention Center. Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$23 at the convention. For more information, contact (800) 662-8701, ext. 3331.
3. Mississippi College is hosting a marriage conference, Weekend to Remember, at the Jackson Marriott Apr. 30 - May 2. Cost is \$89 pp. for those who register online; hotel cost is \$79/night. To make hotel reservations, call (601) 969-5100. For additional conference information, visit www.familylife.com/groups/mississippimarriage.
4. The William Carey University Winters School of Music and the Hattiesburg Historic Downtown Association will present Will Sing for Food, a concert benefiting the Hattiesburg Historic Downtown Association April 8 at 7:30 p.m. at the Saenger Theatre downtown. Tickets are \$8 for students and \$12 for general admission and can be reserved by calling (601) 584-4888 or purchased at the door. The ticket price includes a dessert reception during intermission. For information call (601) 318-6175.
5. Jerry Conner, who four years ago began the men's basketball program at Blue Mountain College, has resigned as men's head coach effective May 1. "The college will establish a process for selecting the next head coach for men's basketball," President Bettye Coward said. "As a part of the building process for a new program, the college has the opportunity to assess where we are after the first three years and to determine where we want to be within the next few years. We will seek the leadership in coaching to achieve our goals."

Nick Clark
CLARK AUCTIONS
10140
www.nickclarkauctions.com
REAL ESTATE BROKER • AUCTIONEER • APPRAISER

Sell your real estate, business, or personal estate in 30 days!
FREE CONSULTATION
601-317-2536

REVIVALS AND HOMECOMINGS

1. Ecu Church, Ecu: Revival, Apr. 11 - 14; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Kermit McGregor, speaker; Danny McGee, music.
2. Corinth Church, Heidelberg: Revival, Apr. 18 - 21; Sun., 11 a.m., followed by fellowship meal and service; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Donnie Guy, speaker.
3. Harmony Church, Carroll County: Homecoming, Apr. 25. Services, 11 a.m., followed by dinner on the ground; Larry Edwards, speaker.
4. Canaan Church, Columbus: Revival, Apr. 11, 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Bill Monaghan in concert.

MS POSITIONS

FIRST CHURCH DURANT SEEKS full/part time Pianist/Organist. Please contact Robert Herring at 662-739-8787, rherring@dcu-durant@bellsouth.net, or the Church office at 662-653-3105, firstbaptist-dura@bellsouth.net.

FBC FULTON, MS IS SEEKING A F/T Youth Minister. Please send resumes to P. O. Box 400, Fulton, Ms. 38843, or fax to 662-862-5793, or E-mail to avaughn74@yahoo.com.

CLASSIFIED ADS

SPECIALTY TREE SERVICE. TREE Removal — Lot Clearing, Trimming — Stump Grinding — Insured. Free Estimate — 601-594-2823

GATLINBURG CABIN FOR RENT: 2 bd/2ba, full kitchen, great view of National Pk. \$95/night. 832-922-0401 / pdw4760@att.net

SEBREN'S SIDING, JACKSON, Christian owned. All home improvements, vinyl siding, windows, metal and shingle roofs, patio covers, screen and glass rooms. 601-992-2092, Don & Rita Sebre, owners.

BETSY'S LILAC CABIN@YAHOO.COM at Lake Lincoln. \$250.00 weekly, \$60.00 nightly. 601-643-8817 or 601-940-6841.

AFFORDABLE BEACHFRONT & BEACHSIDE VACATION CONDOS Gulf Shores and Orange Beach, Alabama. Best value on the beach! Lowest Priced-Over 25 Top Quality Condos! Owned & Operated by Christian Family since 1988 205-556-0368 or 205-752-1231 www.gulfshorescondos.com

GET THE BEST RATES ON: Health Insurance and Medicare Supplements. Call 1-800-541-8196 or visit www.TurnerInsuranceOnline.com

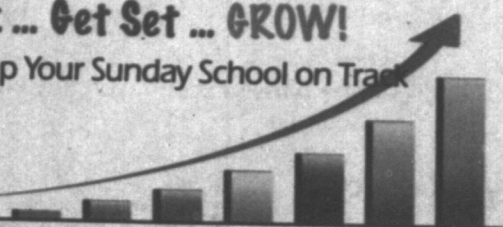
STAINED GLASS: NEW WINDOWS and repairs. Hopper Stained Glass, Jackson, 601-502-0202.

CHURCH PEW UPHOLSTERY, FREE estimates. Davis Upholstery, Quilman, Miss., phone 601-776-6617.

STAINED GLASSWORKS, INC., SERVING MS & AL since 1992. Call 800-605-2970

To The Mark ... Get Set ... GROW!

- Timely Ideas to Keep Your Sunday School on Track
- Personal Growth
 - Team Growth
 - Kingdom Growth



Pastor, Minister of Education and Sunday School Director Conference

Monday, May 3, FBC, 300 South Jackson St., Crystal Springs
Tuesday, May 4, FBC, 106 East Lampkin St., Starkville
 • 6 p.m. Dinner (Reservation Only) • 7-9 p.m. Conference

We want to invite you to an event that has the potential to help you

GET YOUR LEADERSHIP ON BOARD FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL GROWTH.

Listen to and pick the brains of leaders who have helped more than one church see real turn around and move toward Kingdom growth through building and equipping strong Acts 1:8 leadership.

LEADERS:

DAVID HAMILTON AND DAN YOUNG
WHO PERSONIFY SUNDAY SCHOOL TEAMWORK.

To make a dinner reservation contact your Sunday School Department, 601-292-3291 or cday@mbcb.org

BIBLE DRILL CAMP is open to churches and campers whether they have done Bible Drill before or not. This camp is designed for church groups to come and stay together. Each church group must have an adult male sponsor for every 5 boys (or portion thereof) and an adult female sponsor for every 5 girls (or portion thereof).

Activities include ...
 Bible study, Bible memorization, Bible skill, worship, campfire service, morning watch, time with Southern Baptist missionaries, miniature golf, horseback riding, rifle range [safety/ marksmanship], swimming, canoeing, foursquare
... and much more!



BIBLE DRILL CAMP

July 1-3, 2010

Central Hills Baptist Retreat
 For children and students grades 3-9 (completed)

COST: \$110

with \$60 deposit due with preregistration

More info: Discipleship and Family Ministry Department
 601-292-3287 or dhicks@mbcb.org

Senior Adult Retreats

May 17 & 18 - Parkway BC, Natchez, Preacher: Bobby Shows

May 20 (one day only) - Salem Heights BC, Laurel, Preacher: Ivan Parke

May 24 & 25 - Emmanuel BC, Grenada, Preacher: Sonny Atkins

September 30 - Neshoba Association Family Life Center, Philadelphia

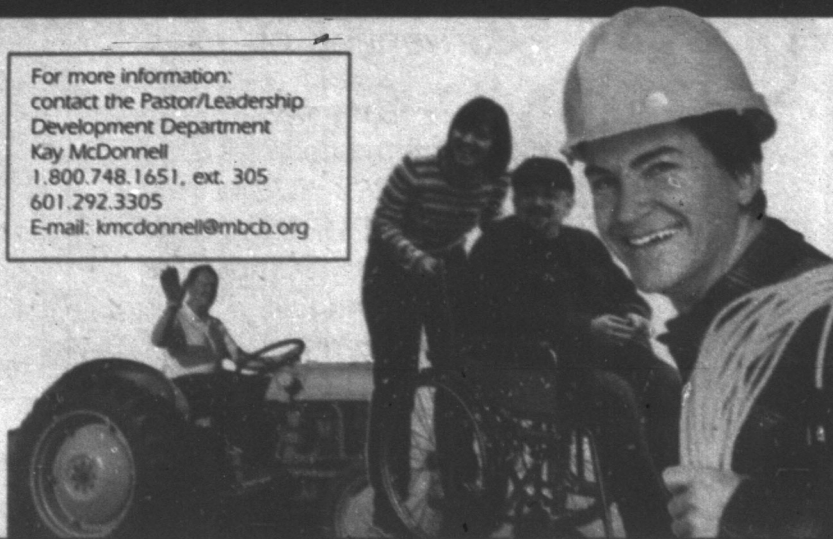
For more information call: 601-292-3373 or 1-800-748-1651; E-mail: gshows@mbcb.org
 Discipleship and Family Ministry Department

LIFE COMMITMENT SUNDAY

- **WHAT IS IT?** Traditionally it has been a day in mid-April to focus attention on the calling of God to vocational ministry. God calls people to serve Him vocationally in a variety of ways: as pastors, ministers of music, ministers of education, ministers of youth, missionaries, church planters, and in a lot of other ministries.

- **DUAL CAREER MINISTRY** A large percentage of our churches are led by dual career ministers who have a leadership role in the church and also a secular job. Approximately 850 Mississippi churches have dual career pastors. That does not count all of the churches with other dual career ministers. Many of these churches would lack pastoral leadership without the ministry of these servants of God. What is their ministry?
 - To serve God in two different areas of ministry simultaneously.
 - To provide pastoral leadership for churches that cannot fully fund a pastor.
 - To highlight the significance of the pastor's role as equipper.

For more information:
 contact the Pastor/Leadership
 Development Department
 Kay McDonnell
 1.800.748.1651, ext. 305
 601.292.3305
 E-mail: kmcdonnell@mbcb.org




GARAYWA

2010 SUMMER CAMP

GA CAMP
 June 7-11
 June 14-18
 June 21-25
 June 28-July 2
 July 5-9
 July 12-16
 July 19-23
 July 26-30

ACTEENS CAMP
 June 28-July 2
 July 5-9

For more information, contact the Mississippi WML at 1-800-748-1651 or in Jackson at 601-921-1111



WHENEVER HE CALLS


MISSISSIPPI
Margaret Lackey Offering for State Missions

Super Summer

Endurance

Hebrews 12:1
MS Super Summer '10-2

JULY 12 - 16, 2010
MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE, CLINTON




SPEAKER
Bryant Bush

WHAT IS SUPER SUMMER?

Super Summer is a discipleship/evangelism leadership conference designed to provide qualitative spiritual growth and help develop student leadership in Mississippi churches.

Super Summer is not for everyone in your youth group. It is designed for students who personally have a desire to grow spiritually. Students come to Super Summer knowing that they will be challenged not only to grow, but to actively share their faith with others. Church leaders are responsible for sending only students who meet the requirements set forth for participation.




**WORSHIP
LEADER**
Stephen Miller

COSTS AND REGISTRATION SCHEDULE

Students and Adult Leaders - \$200 if registered by May 4
 \$250 if registered May 5 - June 4
NO REGISTRATIONS OR REFUNDS ACCEPTED AFTER JUNE 4.
DEADLINES STRICTLY ENFORCED!

Registration packets can be downloaded from our Web site:
www.mssupersummer.com


For more info: e-mail René Edwards
redwards@mbcb.org or call 1-800-748-1651, ext. 284



Lad/Crusader Day

NEW - RA sailboat races,
 NEW - Pit crew tire change,
 putt-putt, riflery, campcraft/field competitions,
 show and tell, speak-out competition,
 mission project banner competition, and more!

STATEWIDE RACER COMPETITION
MAY 1, 2010
 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. / Central Hills Baptist Retreat, Kosciusko
 \$7 / Bring your own lunch. Drinks provided.



FOR MORE INFORMATION:
 Don Gann, 601.292.3339 or 1.800.748.1651, ext. 339,
 or E-mail: dgann@mbcb.org or Deanna Vail, 601.292.3335 or
 1.800.748.1651, ext. 335, E-mail: dvail@mbcb.org

Study: immigrants important in church of the future

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — A North American Mission Board (NAMB)/LifeWay Research study found that while ministries across North America are reaching out to a significant portion of first-generation immigrants, much work remains to be done. Still, while evangelistic growth among these groups has been slow, the potential is promising, with immigrants from most countries considered somewhat receptive to the Gospel.

NAMB contracted with LifeWay Research to conduct the online/telephone study which was completed between July 21-Sept. 2, 2009. The scope of the project included a qualitative phase and quantitative surveys available in 20 languages to missionaries, pastors and laypeople who work among first-generation immigrants in North America.

National and regional organizations and professors who teach immigrant missions and evangelism also were surveyed. The statistics in this article focus only on responses from individuals in 74 national and regional organizations representing a variety of evangelical denominations and groups that participated.

First-generation immigrants were defined in the study as residents of North America who were born in a foreign country.

"For us to be faithful in assisting our churches in the tasks of evangelism and church planting, we need an awareness of what work is underway so believers, churches, denominations and ministries can support and participate in these missions efforts

here in North America," explained Richard Harris, interim president of NAMB.

"We will not make significant progress in fulfilling the Great Commission in North America until we take seriously the mandate to reach more of the millions of immigrants and hundreds of people groups in our communities with the Gospel," he said.

The 74 Christian organizations included in the study have 3,757 missionaries and church planters working among first-generation immigrants. While a few of the largest organizations have many missionaries, the median number of missionaries among these organizations is 12.

Participating organizations report having the highest number of first-generation immigrant believers from Mexico. The next highest numbers of believers involved in their churches or ministries, in descending order, are immigrants from Haiti (a distant second), South Korea, Cuba, and China.

Survey respondents were asked to indicate, by country, changes in the number of immigrants involved in the organizations over the last year. On a scale of one to five, with five representing a 10% or more increase in participation and one being a 10% or more decrease in participation, the mean response was 3.4 or just more than "about the same."

Only Myanmar, Vietnam, and Cambodia immigrants average at or above "more total participants than one year ago."

"The opportunity here is great," said Ken Weathersby,

NAMB's vice president of church planting. "Many immigrants come from places where preaching the Gospel is illegal, but they can hear the Gospel in their new home. In turn, those believers can impact their families here in North America and in their country of origin, more easily crossing language and cultural barriers [than non-native believers]."

Significantly, despite the slow growth of immigrants participating in these organizations, respondents said immigrants from most countries, overall, are considered somewhat receptive to the Gospel.

Receptivity was defined as the speed and ease with which someone who hears the Gospel responds with belief and repentance. Again using the five-point scale, with five being very receptive and one being not receptive at all, the mean response was 3.4.

Immigrants from Ecuador, Guatemala, Liberia, Honduras, El Salvador, Myanmar, Brazil, Costa Rica, Kenya, and Mexico appear most receptive with an average response of 4.0 or higher.

Surveyed organizations currently minister to immigrants from 151 of a possible 202 countries considered in the analysis. This number includes countries such as the Vatican and Taiwan, which are not always counted among the world's official countries.



REACHING OUT — Jalil Dawood (left), a North American Mission Board missionary serving Dallas Arabic Christian Church, is among church planters reaching out to immigrants who have relocated to North America. Here, Dawood's gestures of kindness to a woman named Hiyam reflects the heart of the Southern Baptist congregation he serves to optimize their witness for Christ. (BP photo courtesy of the North American Mission Board)

That means that 25% of possible countries of origin, including nations of Europe, Africa, and the South Pacific, have no organizations ministering to their immigrants in North America. Another 26% have only one or two national or regional organizations ministering to them.

"Things are changing in the U.S. and Canada," said Ed Stetzer, director of LifeWay Research. "By 2050, there will be no majority race or ethnicity in the United States. Already in Toronto, the majority of residents were born outside of Canada. This is a wake-up call to the church in North America. The nations of the world are living right here, yet many are not hearing the Gospel in an

intentional, organized way. We can do better."

Among countries with at least one organization ministering to immigrants in North America, many have "very few" missionaries or church planters. Countries with five or fewer missionaries include Germany, France, Italy, and Poland as well as Middle Eastern, African, and Eurasian countries, among others.

"Generations of believers around the world prayed that the former Soviet bloc nations would be free to hear the Gospel," Stetzer noted. "Now, as they move into our neighborhoods, few are proactively welcoming them with the Good News. We can and must do better."

JOIN YOUR BAPTIST CHAPLAIN REV. ROY MYERS

Alaska Cruise

& Northwest Tour Including Lake Tahoe and San Francisco

15-Days *Departs July 23, 2010* from **\$1948***

Join other Southern Baptists and Rev. Roy Myers on this unique vacation package timed to escape our hot summer weather! This will be Rev. Myers' sixth trip with YMT as Baptist Chaplain. He is retired after serving 43 years as Pastor in Mississippi. Devotions and Baptist religious services will be available most days through out this cruise and tour, for those in our Baptist group who want to participate. Friends and family are welcome. One does not have to be Baptist to join our group. Your group will start in Seattle for one night with an included city tour. In Seattle, board your Norwegian Cruise ship, the "Star" for your 7-day inside passage cruise to Ketchikan; Juneau; Sawyer Glacier; Skagway; and Prince Rupert, BC. Enjoy total freedom with NCL's Freestyle cruising. You pick what to wear, and where and when to dine from 10 different restaurants. Next, travel to San Francisco through Washington State. See the Columbia River, Mt. St. Helens, and Mt. Rainier. Travel through Oregon; then spend two nights in the beautiful Lake Tahoe/Carson City area. See this beautiful region made famous in the old TV western *Bonanza*, including Lake Tahoe, one of the most beautiful lakes in the world. Next, take a scenic drive to San Francisco for your final two nights where you'll see the Golden Gate Bridge, Fisherman's Wharf, and lots more on your included city tour. Fly home from San Francisco. *Your price of \$1948 (per pers., dbl. occ.) includes the 7-day cruise on NCL's "Star", 7 nights hotels, baggage handling, taxes, port charges and lots of sightseeing. Airfare is extra.

For information, reservations, brochure and letter from Rev. Myers with his phone number call:

YMT Vacations 1-800-736-7300

Affordable fun-filled vacations since 1967!



Carpenter Bus Sales

*We Rent Based
15 to 41 Passenger Buses Available
Exclusive provider for
LifeWay Church Bus Sales
800.370.6180 • carpenterbus.com*

Ninth Annual Gulf Coast Baptist Association Leadership Conference

Holy Gatherings:

Engaging The Congregation In Corporate Worship

**May 4, 2010 9:00 A.M.—2:30 P.M.
First Baptist Church of Biloxi**

Learn a fresh appreciation for worship as a meeting with God, a holy gathering.
Receive a renewed desire to guide God's people to express their worship.

Registration \$20 if postmarked on or before April 23, 2010.
Registration \$30 if postmarked on or after April 24, 2010.
Registration includes meal and copy of Holy Gatherings.

Register by contacting GCBA office at:
P.O. Box 2369 • Gulfport, MS 39505
228-832-4311 • lkgeba@cableone.net

Registration is complete on receipt of your funds.



Dr. Michael Sharp
Professor of Worship
NOBTS



Dr. Argile Smith
Senior Pastor
FBC Biloxi



1. The Smiths

Pray this day for...

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 601-292-3304 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-7729 (PRAY)

"Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."
Hebrews 12:2

COOPERATIVE PROGRAM DAY (STEW emphasis)

Pray for Heartland Community Church in South Glens Falls, NY, as they seek a special permit from the city to continue to meet in the building they currently occupy.

LIFE COMMITMENT SUNDAY (P/LD)

Pray for a team from **Highland Baptist Church in Vicksburg** as they travel to Mexico, April 17-24, to participate in a Gospel distribution and saturation project called Operation Go.

Pray for: (1) State Bible Drill, FBC, Senatobia (D&FM); (2) State Ministry Assistants Conference, Garaywa (P/LD); (3) Gerald and Alice Johnston, members of **Eastside Baptist in Peulahatchie** as they move to Hamilton, MT, to work with New Hope Baptist Church.

Pray for: (1) Preaching Conference, FBC, Vicksburg (P/LD); (2) ME Leader Lab, Garaywa (SS); (3) State Bible Drill, FBC, Tupelo (D&FM); (3) a team from **Clery Baptist Church** traveling to India, April 20-29, to do evangelism among an unengaged, unreached people group.

Pray for: (1) State Bible Drill, Emmanuel BC, Grenada; FBC, Brookhaven (D&FM); (2) VBS Church Leadership Training, Calvary BC, Macon; Siloam BC, Meadville; Clarksdale BC, Clarksdale (SS).

Pray for: (1) Preaching Conference, FBC, Philadelphia; (2) those in our armed forces fighting to protect our freedom. Pray that during this time they will come to know the freedom from sin and resulting peace that comes only through Jesus Christ.

"The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field" (Mt 9:37-38). Millions in SE Asia need to hear the gospel, but few believers are sharing. Pray that God would burden the hearts of believers to share.

Pray for: (1) State Bible Drill, Harrisburg BC, Tupelo (D&FM); (2) missionaries in South Asia as their country's organization must submit a performance outlining their purpose for being there. Visas and work permits depend on government approval of this performance.

Pray for: (1) State Bible Drill, FBC, Starkville; Salem Heights BC, Laurel (D&FM); (2) VBS Church Leadership Training, Gaston BC, Booneville; Temple (West) BC, Hattisburg; Parkway BC, Kosciusko (SS).

Pray for: (1) State Bible Drill, Harrisburg BC, Tupelo; (2) For those ministering to people in all of the recent natural disasters. Pray for their safety and strength. Pray for God to open the hearts of the people in these areas to the gospel.

Pray for: (1) Young Musicians' Choral Evaluation, FBC, Clinton (CM); (2) Hispanic Women's Retreat, Central Hills, 9th-10th (WMU); (3) BSU Leadership Conference, MC, Clinton (CLGM).

Pray for: (1) Young Musicians' Festival, MC, Clinton (CM); (2) State Speakers' Tournament, William Carey University (D&FM).

Pray for: (1) Macedonian Call, Garaywa (WMU); (2) State Bible Drill, Poplar Springs Drive BC, Meridian (D&FM); (3) Missionary Parent Fellowship, Garaywa (WMU); (4) State Handbell Festival, Central Hills (CM).

Pray for: (1) Mississippi Missionary Fellowship, Garaywa (WMU); (2) Disaster Relief Area 3 Training, TBA (MM); (3) State Bible Drill, Parkway BC, Clinton; Park Place BC, Brandon (D&FM).



State Singles Retreat

May 22 & 23

Central Hills
Kosciusko

Guest Speaker:
Keith Lowry

Singles Consultant
General Baptist
Convention of Texas

For more
information call:
601-292-3373 or
1-800-748-1651

E-mail: gshows@mbcb.org
Discipleship and Family Ministry
Department

6-2-89

MISS REBEKAH CLARK
Parents: Richard & Wanda
European Peoples

6-3-04

MISS MAGGIE WINGO
Parents: Floyd & Sylvia
American Peoples

6-12-96

MISS AUDREY L. YOUNG
Parents: Steven & Laura
American Peoples

6-15-05

MR. ETHAN EPPS
Parents: Aaron & Tiffany
American Peoples

6-17-02

MISS ELIZABETH
Parents: D & D
Restricted

6-17-95

MR. SETH D.
Parents: P & D
European Peoples

6-22-94

MISS MARY KATHRYN YOUNG
Parents: Steven & Laura
American Peoples

*Encourage an MK
with a birthday card!*

6-23-93

MR. JONATHAN ROBERTSON
Parents: Steve & Ruth
Sub-Saharan African Peoples

6-24-94

MISS MELODY W.
Parents: Matt & Shea W.
Last Frontier

6-28-89

MISS CHARISSA FORTENBERRY
Parents: Robert & Margaret
Sub-Saharan African Peoples

6-29-95

MR. LEE TAYLOR ROBERTS
Parents: Marty & Suzanne
European Peoples

6-30-97

MISS HANNAH ROBERTSON
Parents: Steve & Ruth
Sub-Saharan African Peoples

FOR SECURITY, cards will be forwarded. Please send all to:
Child's name, Parent's name,
MBCB wMu MK Birthdays,
PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205.
PLEASE NOTE: Church members
may send a package of cards together;
cards do not have to be sent individually
to the wMu.

HOUSE TOPS

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

The Right Stuff

2 Corinthians 2:14-17; 3:4-5, 18; 4:1-2, 5-6, 16-18 (NIV)

By Marion D. Duncan

Paul's correspondence with the Corinthian Church is not simply First and Second Corinthians. Bible scholars believe there was a letter that preceded First Corinthians and call it The Previous Letter. In 1 Corinthians 5:9, Paul said, "I wrote you a letter not to associate with fornicators," which obviously refers to an earlier letter. Some think it may be lost; others think it is contained in 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1, because the passage suits what he said he addressed and is rather awkward in the context where it appears. An excellent sense of connection results when reading straight through 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1. Some believe chapters 8-13 are a separate letter, perhaps a fourth letter from Paul to the Corinthians. The confusion may have occurred in collecting the let-

ters—parts of some being combined with others—no less important, however, than when they were first read.

Chloe presented Paul a letter from the Corinthian Church which he answered in First Corinthians, returned to them by Timothy. His letter did not resolve the problems, so Paul made a personal visit to the Corinthian Church which, also, failed to accomplish what he desired in reconciliation with the church.

To live above with saints we love, Will certainly be glory! To live below with saints we know, Well, that's another story!—Unknown

While in Corinth at this time, he was criticized by someone in the church because he had not honored his promise to visit them on his way to and from Macedonia. (1 Corinthians



Duncan

16:5-7) However, Paul, explained in 2 Corinthians 1:23 and 2:1-3 that he changed his plans "to spare them," though this did not silence the opposition.

A second person questioned Paul's apostolic authority and was disciplined—put out of the fellowship. Paul felt the man's punishment had been enough and pleaded that he be forgiven and brought back into the fellowship and affirmed by the love of the church. This visit to Corinth was a complete failure and left Paul heartbroken over the strained relationships.

He went on to Asia where the circumstances were a trial so difficult he despaired of life. (2 Corinthians 1:8-11) Having no peace of mind because of his concern for the brothers at Corinth, he left Troas not having the heart to preach, and went on the Macedonia. Paul was down, but not out. "Great crises produce great men and great deeds of courage," John F. Kennedy wrote in his book, *Profiles in Courage*. What a person is made of is part

of that revelation as well. Paul triumphed over the circumstances because of three spiritual resources that gave him victory: his clear conscious, compassionate heart, and conquering faith.

Paul was certain that God was leading him and leading him in triumph. (2:14) As believers we always know that God is working everything together for good, so long as we love Him and seek to obey His will. (Romans 8:28) "In triumph" gives us the picture of the special tribute that Rome gave to their conquering generals. It was their "ticker-tape parade." Paul used the image of the Roman priests carrying burning incense in honor of the victorious army to describe Christian ministry. The incense represented believers giving forth fragrance of Jesus Christ in their lives and labors. (*Be Encouraged: God Can Turn Your Trials into Triumphs*, by Warren W. Wiersbe)

Paul acknowledged that his competence as a minister came from God. "You show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry... written on tablets of human hearts. Such confidence as this is ours through Christ before God. Not that we

are competent in ourselves...but our competence comes from God. He made us competent as ministers of a new covenant..." (3:3-6a) Through Christ, all believers have the privilege of communion with Him, "...where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom...and we...are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory..." (17-18)—even more glorious than that Moses experienced.

Paul admonishes, the Corinthian church to keep the right focus—the gospel of Jesus Christ. In our culture filled with "new" religions, cults, and quests for enlightenment, we must hold firm the conviction that Jesus is not just one option among many. Daily lay witnesses sharing the gospel is the "ministry" Paul addressed. Ministry is not easy; it can drain a person physically, emotionally, and spiritually. Anyone who ministers must make personal renewal and refreshment and experiencing inner strength from the Holy Spirit life priorities.

Duncan is a member of First Church, Macon.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Tested Devotion

Exodus 15:22 - 18:27

By Shelby Hazzard

Grow in Loyalty— Ex 16:2-4

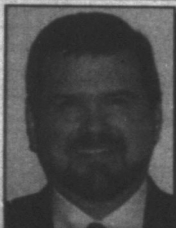
After the Lord delivered Israel from Egypt, God led them into the Desert of Shur where they traveled for three days without water. When they did find water at Marah, it was bitter and undrinkable. The people grumbled against Moses and he cried out to God. God told Moses to throw a piece of wood into the water, and when he did, it became sweet and drinkable!

God initiated a test with them at Marah, making decrees and laws for them to obey. God said if they would listen carefully to Him, do right and obey all His commands and decrees, "He would not bring on you any of the diseases I brought on the Egyptians, for I am the

Lord, who heals you" (Ex 15:26). Next, God brought them to Elim, an oasis consisting of twelve springs and seventy palm trees, so they camped.

As they set out from Elim into the Desert of Sin they grumbled against God again and reminisced about the food luxuries they had during slavery! This grumbling in discontent is typical of man in difficult circumstances. No doubt Israel was enduring a real struggle; however, within the struggle is always a test of obedience helping us to depend on God. Will we fail? Of course, but within the failure are valuable lessons to listen, learn, trust and become more and more devoted to God.

Deuteronomy 8:3, "he humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you



Hazzard

with manna, which neither you nor your fathers had known, to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord." (NIV)

Grow in Confidence—
Ex 16:11-15, 18

In response to their grumbling the Lord said he would "rain down bread from heaven" each day. They were to gather one omer of bread per person and on the sixth day two omers to compensate for the Sabbath, a simple test of obedience.

Moses and Aaron gather all the Israelites and tell them they will have meat in the evening and bread in the morning. As they spoke, the glory of the Lord appeared in a cloud; that evening quail "covered the camp" and the next morning "the layer of dew became thin flakes of bread like frost." They called the bread "manna," a Hebrew word meaning, "What is it?"

and the quail seems to be a one time event recorded only in this passage. God heard the Israelites and responded in a miraculous provision of quail meat and daily bread to remind them once again of his great power and love.

Remember, God loves us and provides for us, but He also tests us and disciplines us to grow us to maturity to serve and glorify Him (Rom 8:28; James 1:1)

Grow in Testimony— Ex 16:32-34

The Lord provided them daily manna in specified quantities all the years of their wanderings. Some of Israel occasionally collected more than an omer per day, which resulted in spoilage, however, the extra quantity for the Sabbath remained fresh!

God would use the manna to remind Israel of his care for them for the rest of their existence. He told them to "take a jar and put an omer of manna in it, then place it before the Lord to be kept for the generations to come" (Ex 16:33). Verse 34,

"Aaron put the manna in front of the Testimony that it might be kept," can be best understood as a future time for the ark had not been revealed, nor constructed at this point, but it would be put there once the Ten Commandments were received and the ark constructed (Expositor's Bible Commentary, Walter C. Kaiser Jr., 403-4).

God would also use the manna to testify to Christ, John 6:32-33, Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. 33 For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."

As you live your life as a professing believer, do people see you as a true man or woman of God sharing the bread of life, or as a cold, calloused religious person worshipping a dead religious system?

Hazzard is minister of evangelism, First Church, Greenville.

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.



Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if

submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items are generally not publishable. Photographs can not be returned. Please do not attach photos with tape or staples.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

Miss. Baptists use love of cattle to reach Sudan's Dinka

AKOT, Sudan (BP) — What could a few good ol' boys from the Deep South have in common with a bunch of hardened, gun-toting, spear-throwing Dinka men in the Sudan? Cows.

Taking laminated photos from their backpacks, four volunteers from Oakland Church in Corinth — Danny Turner, Kenneth Brawner, Jay Mitchell, and Billy Taylor — show some prized cows to the Dinka herders. The young herders surround the Mississippians to view the pictures.

The four volunteers, covered in smoke and ash from burning dung to keep mosquitoes and other bugs away, have flown halfway around the world to share Christ with these cattle keepers and teach them about HIV/AIDS prevention.

Their interest in cows is a natural point of connection, with the Mississippians using the few Dinka words they know to begin the conversation. "These people love their cows and they respect others who feel the same," says Turner, who once owned more than 100 head of cattle but now works in insurance.

Cows are at the center of life for the Dinka, an animistic, spirit-worshipping people group of nearly three million people. In addition to providing milk to the Dinkas, cows are a sign of affluence. The number of cattle owned determines wealth and standing in Dinka society. The herders carry spears and guns to protect their livestock from thieves and predators.

The four Mississippi volunteers are working in one of hundreds of cattle

camps in southern Sudan. Dinka herders travel from camp to camp as they move their livestock from water source to water source, which changes depending on the rains.

"Cattle camps are the heart of the Dinka people," says Jermaine Edwards, an International Mission Board journeyman involved in the project to connect Dinka herders and U.S. volunteers.

The herders' traditional lifestyle is to move with their livestock, with the camps having a party-like atmosphere that includes celebratory dances, spontaneous jumping competitions, and uninhibited sexual activity.

Though many Dinka have settled in towns throughout southern Sudan, "those who no longer live at the camps wish they could again," says Edwards, from Cleveland, Ohio.

Because of their promiscuity, the herders are at risk of contracting HIV/AIDS, then spreading the disease. Jennifer Miller, another IMB journeyman, explained, "We wanted to find a way to



FIRM GRIP — Danny Turner learns how to throw a spear from a cattle keeper near Akot, southern Sudan. Turner was part of a four-member volunteer team from Oakland Church in Corinth who came to Sudan to work with International Mission Board missionaries to teach HIV/AIDS prevention in cattle camps. (BP photo)

bring AIDS awareness to them that would hit home, that would connect with their lives and culture and would address their animistic view of the world."

Most of the herders do not read, so oral stories are used to teach morals and communicate truth. Some of the stories come from the Bible while others are based on Dinka folklore and

lifestyle. "The stories range from helping show them how to make wise decisions based on a Dinka folktale to... God's control over all the earth," Prewitt says.

"We also share basic AIDS stories," she continues. "One is about a man who had five sons; four got AIDS. This story shows the ways to contract AIDS and also how to avoid the disease."

The journeymen are spending two years on the mission field to focus on the outreach to Dinka herders, funded by gifts to the Cooperative Program and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.

Prewitt and Miller, as single females, know they have no authority in Dinka society in which only men are respected, so the male volunteers take the initiative in connecting with the cattle herders.

As the Americans walk through the dusty cattle camp, stopping to take pictures of proud Dinka with their prized cows, they invite the herders to their campsite to listen to the stories.

After all the cows are tethered to stakes so they won't wander away during the night, some of herders gather at the volunteers' campsite. As the volunteers talk, the cattle herders listen intently.

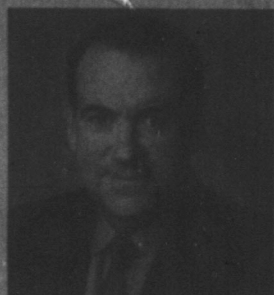
"No kawas [foreigners] have ever come and stayed in our cattle camp," a young Dinka says to the Mississippi Baptists. "We are uneducated people, and we have never heard anything of this disease before. Thank you for bringing this message to us."



THE CONFERENCE FOR TODAY'S ADULT.
SEPTEMBER 21-24, 2010 IN SEVIERVILLE, TENNESSEE

Speakers

MIKE HUCKABEE



SCOTT DAWSON



TONY EVANS



CHONDA PIERCE



In Concert

THE BOOTH BROTHERS



CHARLES BILLINGSLEY



Leading Worship

MICHAEL & LINDA ADLER



PRICES AS LOW AS \$129! (includes rooming)

"Wake up, and strengthen the things
that remain...." REV. 3:2 NAS

Scott Dawson
Evangelistic Association



Register by calling 1-800-869-8738 or go to our website wakeupamerica.scottdawson.org

JUST FOR THE RECORD



1. Eastside Church, Magee



2. Clarke-Venable Church



3. Temple Church, Myrtle



4. Griffith Memorial Church, Jackson

1. Eastside Church, Magee, ordained Larry Bennett as deacon Jan. 3. Shown are Bennett, Liz Bennett, and pastor John P. Adcock.

2. The Triple L members of Clarke-Venable Church, Decatur, enjoyed a program presented by Felicia Smith, standing, on how to make cards to be used for visits to nursing homes, hospitals, or shut-ins. Shown, seated, are Molly Hayes, Odell Reeves, Bob Murff, and Sula Bishop.

3. The Women on Mission of Temple Church, Myrtle, made blankets for the local pregnancy testing facility, First Choice Center for Women. Shown are the participants.

4. The Men's Ministry of Griffith Memorial Church, Jackson, recently provided a meal, music, and Christian witness to the inmates at the lock-down unit for psychologically disturbed prisoners at Whitfield Hospital. Shown are participants Ricky Killingsworth, Mike Aycox, pastor Paul Jones, Glenn Herrington, Johnny Covington, Rick Bewley, Paul Sheffield, Corey Killingsworth, and Steve McWhorter.

5. Bunker Hill Church, Columbia, prepared 67 Buckets of Hope for Haiti. Shown are Charlene Buckley, pastor Randy Gardner, Sandra Polk Broom, Shelia Kinslow, Virgil Broom, Ricky Dyess, and James Robbins.

6. Corinth Church, Heidelberg, will host The Miracles, a choir of adults with intellectual disabilities Apr. 17, 7 p.m.

7. Tomnolen Church, Eupora, will host The Greens in concert Apr. 10, 7 p.m. A love offering will be received.

8. First Church, Lumberton, hosted the Silver Ring Thing, a 2 - 2.5 hour stage performance that promotes purity through faith in Jesus Christ. Out of the 600 students and 98 parents who attended, there were 59 professions of faith and 278 purity commitments.

9. Midway Church, Jackson, will host gospel concert pianist Andrew Ishee in concert Apr. 18, 5 p.m. A love offering will be received. Michael Hunt, pastor.

10. Leake County Association is hosting a Haiti Benefit at the Carthage Coliseum, Carthage, Apr. 17, 5 p.m. with speaker MSgt. Michael Hollis and music by Cassidy

Crenshaw, Shane McGivney, Proclamation, Uncle Pug's Bluegrass Band, and The Sanders Family Tradition. Donations at door; door prizes and silent auction.



5. Bunker Hill Church, Columbia

Open your door to a stranger
while maintaining your safety!
Steel Construction



CALL FOR A
FREE ESTIMATE!

LOCAL

601-355-0188

TOLL FREE

877-281-8232

✓ Patio Doors

✓ French Doors

✓ Window Guards

✓ Custom Colors

MISSISSIPPI IRON WORKS

301 Highland Park Cove, Ste. A • Ridgeland, MS 39157 • www.mississippiironworks.com